

Claims

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 5 A device comprising at least two components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other by first attachment means at a first position and by second attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, the first and second components being relatively fixed at the first position, characterised in that at least a first of the components is formed so that, at the second position, it can move relative to the other component.

10 2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component comprises one or more flexible limb elements having respective free ends having means for attachment to the other component.

15 3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said first component comprises a plurality of walls defining an enclosure and said limb elements extend from said walls into the interior of said enclosure.

20 4. A device according to claim 3, wherein a first limb element extends inwardly from one of said walls and a second limb element extends inwardly from an opposed one of said walls.

25 5. A device according to claim 1 comprising two second positions, one at each end of the first component, with the first position being arranged at a central location.

6. A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component is divided into a plurality of separate sub-components along the length thereof.

30 7. A device according to claim 1, wherein one or both of said components are capable of bowing in a direction perpendicular to the adjoining surfaces of said

~~components and the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% of said adjoining length.~~

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% over the normal range of operating temperatures of said device.

9. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first component is of plastics material and the other component is of metal.

10. A device according to claim 9, wherein the first component is a printer vacuum guide member and the other component is a chassis of the printer.

11. A device comprising first and second components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other at a first position and at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, characterised in that said first and second attachment positions are relatively displaceable in the direction of said length.